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# Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01804 291145Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 291033Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1098
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 1804

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS PFOR JO SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR JORDAN

1. AT MEETINGS WITH BOTH PRIME MINISTER AND KING MARCH 28 SUBJECT OF HAWK $140 MILLION PAYMENT PROBLEM WAS RAISED.

2. PRIME MINISTER ASKED ME FOR INFORMATION ON THE ISSUE. I INFORMED HIM OF MY RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE KING AND AGAIN STRONGLY SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT JORDAN TAKE UP PROBLEM WITH SAUDI ARABIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. LATER SAME DAY I ASKED KING ABOUT HIS INTENTION TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. (AS YOU KNOW HE IS CURRENTLY BEDRIDDEN WITH EXTREMELY PAINFUL SLIPPED DISC.) KING TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD. NO DATE HAD YET BEEN SET FOR A MEETING. HE HAD ALSO RAISED QUESTION WITH PRIMCE SULTAN WHOM HE MET IN LONDON WHEN HE CONSULTED THERE WITH KING KHALID EARLIER THIS MONTH. SULTAN WAS ARRANGING FOR AN EARLY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR COURT CHIEF SHARAF AND ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF BIN SHAKER.

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4. MORNING MARCH 29 I WAS IN TOUCH WITH BIN SHAKER ON ANOTHER MATTER. HE TOLD ME HE WAS LEAVING THAT MORNING WITH COURT CHIEF SHARAF TO DISCUSS WITH SULTAN QUESTIONS OF SAUDI GUARANTEES FOR FMS CREDIT AND HAWK PAYMENT PROBLEM. SHAKER'S ENTHUSIASM FOR DISCUSSION OF LATTER MINIMAL, BUT THERE IS SOME

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CHANCE JORDANIANS WILL RAISE ISSUE. SHAKER SAID HE HOPES TO BE BACK IN AMMAN EVENING MARCH 29 IF ALL GOES WELL.

5. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT TO YOU INFORMATION WE RECEIVE FROM JORDANIANS ON CONTACT WITH SAUDIS OVER FINANCIAL QUESTIONS.

6. KING IN PASSING NOTED TO ME SAUDIS HAD EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE DIRECTLY TO HIM OVER INTERVIEW WHICH HE GAVE RECENTLY IN WHICH HE SAID "OIL STATES" HAD NOT BEEN SUPPORTING FINANCIALLY CONFRONTATION STATES. KING SAID HE REPLIED TO FAHD THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE PRIME SUPPORTER TO JORDAN AND THAT HIS PROBLEMS WERE WITH OTHER STATES (PRINCIPALLY KUWAIT). KING PROMISED FAHD HE WOULD EARLY AND PUBLICLY MAKE CLEAR JORDANIAN'S APPRECIATION FOR SAUDI ASSISTANCE TO REMOVE ANY DOUBT. I TOLD KING THAT WE TOO HAD SEEN PUBLIC EXPRESSION SAUDI EXTREME UNHAPPINESS TO RECENT STATEMENTS FROM CONFRONTATION STATES, QUITE PROBABLY INCLUDING JORDAN, OVER LACK OF SAUDI FINANCIAL SUPPORT. KING TOOK MY POINT. HE AGAIN REPEATED THAT HE WOULD FIND EARLY OCCASION TO ATTEMPT TO REDRESS BY PUBLIC REMARKS CURRENT SAUDI IMPRESSION.
PICKERING

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**Review Markings:**
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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